



NEWS RELEASE

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**WHITEHORSE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO INTERFERENCE
WITH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RANGERS**

Sentenced to Five Years Probation, Fined \$2,500 and Prohibited from Entering U.S. for Five Years

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on December 17, 2007, Paul Maria Maximillian Kloepper, a resident of Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, pursuant to a plea agreement with the Government, was sentenced in federal court in Juneau to a five year term of probation, and a fine of \$2,500, made payable to the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, for his conviction of interfering with National Park Service Rangers in performance of their duties. In accordance with the plea agreement, Kloepper is also prohibited from entering the United States for a period of five years.

United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess imposed the sentence on Kloepper, age 50.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Steven E. Skrocki, the case arose from an incident on June 19, 2007, where Kloepper failed to follow the instructions given by National Park Service Rangers who investigating Kloepper and his company, Ruby Range Adventures, for guiding in Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park without a permit. When investigating rangers met Kloepper, Kloepper grew increasingly belligerent and failed to follow instructions of Park Rangers to remain seated so Park Rangers could issue citations to Kloepper and his company. During the incident Park Rangers were forced to use pepper spray when Kloepper refused to stay seated and belligerently confronted the rangers. Kloepper was arrested and taken into custody and was observed attempting to escape from his handcuffs. Kloepper served a 23-day jail sentence imposed by the State of Alaska in connection with this offense.

Tim Steidel, the park's chief ranger, said, "We hope that Mr. Kloepper has had the opportunity to reflect on his behavior and now recognizes it is inappropriate and will not be tolerated."

Mr. Cohen commended the National Park Service for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Kloepper.

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